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of new lava sheets under the cooler crust. The captain of the steamer *Maori,* who periodically visits the island, told Mr. Jensen that he could see an appreciable difference in the altitude of this ridge at each trip.

When Mr. Jensen was there most of the lava exuded at that time was moving to the sea, following definite lava tunnels beneath the cooled crust. The course of these tunnels could be traced by vent holes through which steam and sulphurous gases were rising. Where the lava was flowing into the sea there seemed to be miniature volcanoes due to explosions that occurred about every two minutes. The cause of these explosions seemed to be that as the lava poured into the ocean a considerable amount of water was included in and beneath it. This water was converted into steam, and when the steam pressure became great enough an explosion took place. The water entered the sea along a width of several miles, so that a continuous wall of steam lined the coast. The sea was in ebullition for several hundred yards out. Enormous quantities of coral and fishes were killed. Lava has filled the water area between the shore and the coral reef and has also built a peninsula several miles in length.

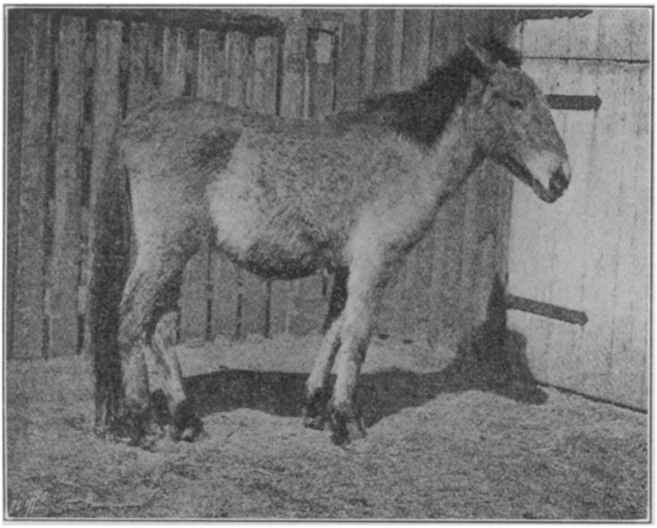
It is impossible to estimate the weight of the lava, but it is certain that its volume exceeds a cubic mile and that three cubic miles may not be too high an estimate. The flow over a considerable area exceeds 1,000 feet in thickness. Over the coastal area from Saleaula to Satapatu and inland three or four miles its thickness varies from twenty to several hundred feet. Between Asuisui and Satapatu it has flowed into deep water and filled up the sea bottom to such an extent as to make the water greenish for nearly a mile out from the shore.

PRJEVALSKY'S HORSE.

The English translation of the account of this wild horse, written in Russian by Dr. W. Salensky, has recently appeared from the press of Hurst & Blackett, London. Some thirty years ago the Russian explorer Prjevalsky reported that he had discovered a new and quite distinct type of horse in the Gobi Desert, to the west of Mongolia. Most British naturalists did not regard the Prjevalsky horse as a valid species of the wild horse, some thinking it a kiang hybrid and others the offspring of escaped Mongol ponies.

A herd of about thirty living specimens reached Europe in 1902, most of them being now in Russia, though a few are in England. Dr. Salensky, by studying the external characters, teeth and skeleton, arrived at the conclusion that the Prjevalsky horse is a species or race of the genus *Equus* and that it "is of extraordinary interest since in it the characters of the domestic horse are mixed with features reminding one of the Asiatic ass."

The animal belongs to the steppe variety of wild horse, but for lack of data it is not possible yet to determine what relationship exists between this wild horse and domestic horses. It is impossible to say, with our present knowledge, whether it gave origin to any of the ancestors of the domestic horse.



THE PRJEVALSKY WILD HORSE.

The book gives a detailed account of the physical characteristics of the animal. Its area of distribution is confined to a rectangular district, bounded on the north by 48° and on the south by 46° N. Lat., on the west by 84° and on the east by 90°-91° E. Long. Observations of the animal in the wild state show that it is an inhabitant of the level districts and goes at night to the pasture lands and drinking places. At break of day it returns to the desert, where it rests until sunset. In the spring, when there are foals in the herd, the animals always rest in the same place, but as the foals grow up the resting place is frequently changed. The animals generally walk one behind another, and their deeply trodden paths are found all over the district. The Mongolians have tried to tame them, but, on the whole, they will not submit to man, are afraid of him and cannot be rendered serviceable. No progress has been made in the efforts to tame the captives now in Europe.

The capture of the horse, as practiced by the Mongolians, is a very simple affair. At the time when the mares foal, the Kalmuks betake themselves to the plains with two horses. They follow a herd until the still weak foals can go no farther. The foals are then caught and reared in a herd of domestic horses. Some facts are known which indicate that there may yet be hope of taming these animals. Mr. P. K. Koslov, for instance, saw a six-month foal belonging to the Van of Ljukschin, which had been so far tamed as to go well in a bridle and mount with ease a stairway leading to the second floor, and also to allow the seven year old son of the Van to sit on its back.

INFORMATION FROM MR. LEFFINGWELL.

Advices from Mr. Leffingwell, of the Mikkelsen-Leffingwell Polar Expedition, give interesting particulars of his personal experiences and of his plans for work during the coming season.

He early formed a favourable opinion of the helpfulness of the Eskimos. Flaxman Island proved to be very desirable as winter headquarters, especially as two native families lived there from whom the expedition could procure game and furs. They helped the party in many ways, and one of the men gave up his whole year to the visitors, hunting seal for the dog-feed all winter, even in the worst of weather.

A white man named Arey, who had been in the country for twenty years, and knew the coast thoroughly, was also of great assistance. Mr. Arey, a mining prospector, convinced the party that a white man may live very comfortably in that Arctic country if he only knows how. Arey has an Eskimo wife, two sons, 17 and 15 years old, and two other children, 6 and 3 years old. He and his boys made a hunting trip for caribou and brought in a sled load. The exploring party thus lived on the fat of the land.

Persons who have never been in cold climates do not understand what drifting snow is. During high winds, the air was often so thick with flying snow that Leffingwell and his comrades could not see a black object thirty yards away. There were many gales